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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 27 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to address you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, concerning the attached note verbale dated 27 October 2010 addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to its previous correspondence, including note verbale No. 545 dated 29 June 2010, concerning the denial of a United States entry visa to Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh Basti, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, to attend the 2010 NPT Review Conference (3-28 May 2010).

We have learned with utmost dismay that Mr. Akhondzadeh's application for a United States entry visa was denied for a second time. He had requested an entry visa on 3 August 2010 to attend the sixty-fifth annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (17 September-3 October 2010). The United States authorities also denied entry visas to two other high-ranking officials from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely Mr. Ali Ahani, Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs, and Mr. Behruz Kamalvandi, Deputy Foreign Minister for American Affairs, who were supposed to accompany the Presidential delegation to the United Nations.

It is very unfortunate and disappointing that the host country authorities continue to disregard the international obligations of the United States by denying entry visas to Iranian representatives to attend the meetings of the United Nations. These unjustified decisions clearly contravene the international obligations of the United States Government as the host of the United Nations Headquarters, particularly those articulated in the Headquarters Agreement, including its section 13 (a) and (b).

The recurrence of such pattern adds to the concern that the host country authorities are increasingly tilted towards exploiting the country's status as the host of the United Nations Headquarters for their bilateral political objectives. This attitude contradicts the Headquarters Agreement, which provides that "the provisions of section 11 shall be applicable irrespective of the relations existing between the Governments of the persons referred to in that section and the Government of the United States" (section 12).

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its serious concern and strong protest to the United States Government for not fulfilling its international obligations vis-à-vis the United Nations Member States. The Islamic Republic of Iran also reiterates its call to the United States authorities to abide by their legal obligations under the Headquarters Agreement to facilitate the entry of the Member States' representatives to attend the United Nations meetings, and to take urgent measures to rectify past failures, reverse the above-mentioned decision and avoid such in the future.

New York, 27 October 2010